

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5387

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

S E C R E T USNATO 2290

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO DISCUSSION OF YUGOSLAVIA

REF: USNATO 2221

1. DEPT AND EMBASSY BELGRADE WILL HAVE NOTED THAT PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AGAIN DISCUSSED YUGOSLAVIA AT THEIR LUNCHEON ON APRIL 23. MISSION BELIEVES THAT NEITHER DEPARTMENT NOR EMBASSY BELGRADE SHOULD BE SURPRISED BY THE INTEREST NATO COUNTRIES ARE SHOWING IN YUGOSLAVIA AT THE PRESENT TIME (PARA 4, BELGRADE 1882).

2. THE SUBJECT OF YUGOSLAVIA IS CURRENTLY BEING DISCUSSED QUITE INTENSIVELY IN THE WESTERN PRESS FROM SEVERAL PERSPECTIVES. FOR EXAMPLE, AN ARTICLE BY JOHN P. ROCHE HEADLINED "WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN YUGOSLAVIA AFTER TITO DIES" APPEARED IN THE "STARS AND STRIPES" FOR APRIL 23 AND WAS CIRCULATED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE. AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "A GHOST WALKS" APPEARED IN THE "ECONOMIST" OF 13-19 APRIL 1974 WHICH DESCRIBED THE TRIESTE SITUATION AND SAID THT "OTHERS THINK YUGOSLAV ATTITUDE IS A FORETASTE OF WHAT ITALY CAN EXPECT WHEN PRESIDENT TITO IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL." ON APRIL 9, 1974, THE "ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT" RAN A STORY REPORTING THAT TITO WAS SAID TO BE IN DECLINING HEALTH AND THEN WENT ON TO QUOTE AN INTERVIEW
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WITH GENERAL SEGNA WHICH APPEARED IN THE AUSTRIAN MAGAZINE "PROFIL" AND WHICH SPOKE OF A "SOVIET CONTINGENCY PLAN TO OCCUPY SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AUSTRIA FOLLOWING TITO'S DEATH." MANY OTHER EXAMPLES COULD BE CITED BUT THESE PERHAPS

SUFFICE TO DESCRIBE THE TENOR OF THE STORIES THAT ARE NOW WIDELY CIRCULATING IN THE PRESS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IS IS HARDLY SURPRISING THAT NATO COUNTRIES ARE INTERESTED IN KEEPING A WEATHER EYE ON EVENTS IN YUGOSLAVIA.

3. MISSION APPRECIATES EMBASSY BELGRADE'S SUGGESTION THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD MIGHT QUIETLY CIRCULATE INFORMATION ABOUT TITO'S HEALTH AS WE NOW SEE IT, AND THAT HE STRESS OUR VIEW THAT YUGOSLAVIA IS BETTER ORGANIZED TO CARRY ON NOW THAN AT ANY TIME SINCE SEPTEMBER 1970. WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHETHER MISSION SHOULD MAKE THESE POINTS AS SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY BELGRADE.

4. REMARKS BY GREEK AND TURKISH PERMREPS ON APRIL 23, REPORTED REFTEL, AMPLIFY COMMENTS MADE IN EARLIER DISCUSSION (USNATO 1957) TO WHICH EMBASSY BELGRADE HAS REFERRED. (BELGRADE 1882) EVIDENTLY THERE IS A QUESTION OF WHAT AT LEAST TURKEY AND POSSIBLY GREECE THINK THE TREATY COULD IMPLY FOR THEM IN FUTURE CONTINGENCIES, QUITE APART FROM WHAT THE GOY IS SAYING ABOUT IT AT THE PRESENT.
RUMSFELD

SECRET

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